



# TCDSB'S UNSUNG HEROES



**February 2024**

**Chandi Amarasingha, Early Child Educator, Precious Blood Catholic School**



Chandi Amarasingha is a dedicated and compassionate Early Childhood Educator (DECE) who excels in supporting kindergarten students. She fosters positive experiences for young learners through kindness, support, and a proactive attitude. Chandi has gone above and beyond by initiating extracurricular activities like a sewing club and a Rosary club, showcasing her passion for student enrichment and spiritual growth. Her collaborative nature and professionalism contribute significantly to the Early Learning Program team, making her a cherished member of the school community.

**Laura Monaco, Special Education Teacher, Precious Blood Catholic School**



Laura Monaco, a dedicated Special Education Teacher at Precious Blood Catholic School (PBCS), ensures comprehensive support for all students with special needs. She provides a nurturing environment, always available for students needing a break or extra assistance. Beyond her role, Laura actively engages in various school activities, coaching, and community support initiatives. Her professionalism shines through in her interactions with staff, students, and families, prioritizing the needs of her students and offering guidance to colleagues. Laura's commitment to Catholic values is evident in her role as Religion Rep, embodying gospel values and serving as a role model.

Collaborating effectively with the Special Education team and SBSLT, Laura ensures that all students are engaged and supported.

**Nick Colantonio, Head Custodian, St. John Paul II Catholic Secondary School**



Nick, the head custodian at St. John Paul II Catholic Secondary School, embodies Christ-like love and kindness in all his actions. He selflessly supports colleagues, students, and parents, going beyond his duties to ensure a clean and safe environment. With professionalism and passion, Nick meticulously maintains the school, fostering a sense of community and positivity. He collaborates seamlessly with others, representing the Toronto Catholic District School Board with pride. Nick's dedication, collaborative spirit, and initiative-taking approach make him an invaluable asset to the school community, epitomizing excellence in custodial care and advocacy for Catholic education.

**Gina Racioppo, Arts Department Lead, Loretto Abbey Catholic Secondary School**



Gina has been a transformative force at Loretto Abbey over her 12-year tenure. She established the school's first Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA), fostering a safe and celebratory space for marginalized students. Her dedication extends beyond the GSA, as she actively participates in various school initiatives, including arts programs, multicultural celebrations, and equity initiatives. Gina's passion for her work shines through her commitment to students and colleagues. She embodies Catholic values through her kindness, compassion, and support for all members of the school community. Gina's selflessness and dedication make her a vital part of our school community, as she tirelessly works to create inclusive environments where all students can thrive.

**Christine Hirata, Early Childhood Educator, St. Barbara Catholic School**



Christine Hirata, an Early Childhood Educator (ECE) at St. Barbara, is renowned for her dedication, compassion, and commitment to student safety. She maintains strong relationships with students and staff alike, consistently organizing enriching events and providing support for her colleagues. Christine's devotion to student learning is evident in her innovative teaching strategies and willingness to adapt to new methods. She is a reliable and proactive team member, serving as a role model for Catholic values and promoting a culture of respect and collaboration. Christine's leadership extends beyond her classroom as she mentors ECE students and contributes to school-wide initiatives. Her dedication and exemplary work ethic make her an asset to our school community.

**[Please click here to nominate an Unsung Hero in your community!](#)**